

WORSHIP - 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 6 DECEMBER 2020

Today we should have Morning Prayer at St Edmund's and Holy Communion at St Edmund's, both at 10, plus worship on Zoom at 11.30 am. If you want to join click on this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81615285380?pwd=SUh1N09KQW5CSGdaZ0g1ZW0rS3BLQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 1528 5380

Passcode: 664851

We plan to put the whole thing on youtube afterwards, so you can watch it later - the link will be on the website.

This is the Order of Service that we will use for Zoom though I've added some extra hymns and music.

The first thing we do is to **Light the Advent Wreath** - thanks to Adam, Lynsey and Barnaby for lighting it.

Today we remember the Prophets, more great figures of the Old Testament
We pray together:



God our Father, you spoke to the prophets of old of a Saviour who would bring peace. You helped them to spread the joyful message of his coming kingdom. Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, to share with those around us the good news of your power and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us, **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Christ, have mercy upon us, **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us, **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collects - both the Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:

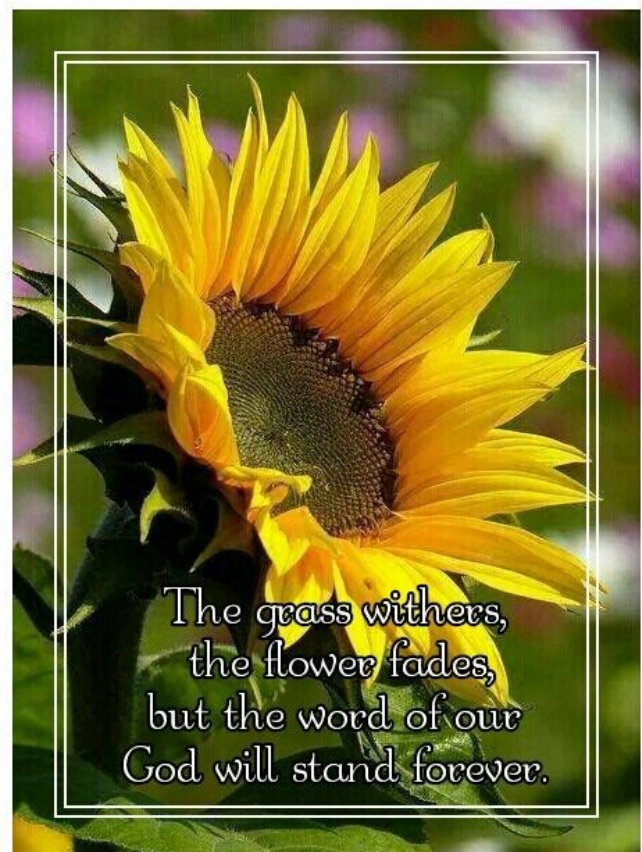
Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ
comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Old Testament reading - Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Lord, we stand with Your Word, and ask your blessing. Help us on our continuing journey, as we seek to be your people. Help us to hold onto your word in these dark and difficult times. We pray especially for our near neighbours at Mackworth. We cannot imagine what it must be like to see your loved church building burnt down. We pray for Jacqueline their Vicar, for the Wardens, congregation and community - for the fire service, police, and all those involved in the difficult decisions to be made. We pray for us all, as we journey through Advent, as we prepare for the coming of your Kingdom, as we celebrate Christmas together. We know, Lord, that this will be a different year - but your Word is not defeated by Covid, or by fire. May we not be defeated either. Maranatha, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

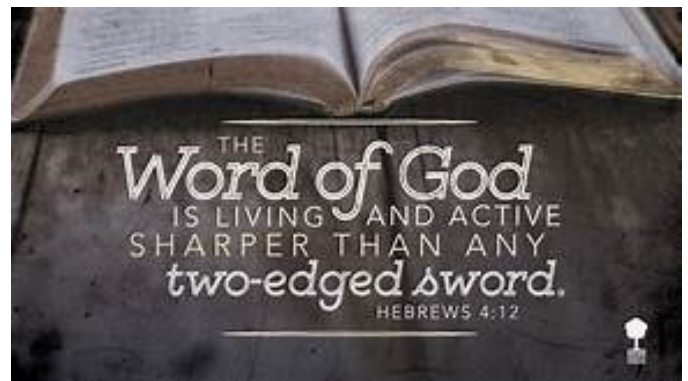
We pray for our world. It feels a world of darkness, confusion and chaos - but we know your light is brighter than all the darkness. We pray for our government, the opposition, and all in authority. For our relationship with Europe, for National and Local Government, for those leading industry, education, the health service, all the aspects of our life. For wisdom, determination, and the sense to work together. Maranatha, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

We pray for our schools as term come to an end. For teachers and staff, may they get a rest and a holiday. For families, trying to juggle work and childcare. For our young people. We think of our children, perhaps coping better with all of this than many of us are. We think of our teenagers, growing up in this frightening world. We pray for our students - those who have had an awful time at University. We pray for those trying to find jobs, and struggling at this time. Maranatha, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

We pray all those who are fighting Covid. For doctors, nurses and hospital staff. We those working long hours dressed in PPE. For those who are tired, and frightened they can take no more. For those who are ill, and for their families, especially those who are unable to be with their loved ones. For all preparing vaccinations - we give thanks for the work of science, and pray for the practicalities of distribution and immunization. For people needing treatment for other illnesses, those whose treatment is delay or cancelled - all who are frightened and confused.. Maranatha, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

We remember those who have died. At this time of festival, we remember those special to us. We ask for faith, for your healing power, and for your love. Thank you for the journey we have been on together. Maranatha, **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Your Word is the light we see,
a guide for our footsteps
to where you are found.
Your Word is the strength we find
when darkness threatens to overwhelm.
Your Word is the power we need
to become servants of a Heavenly King.
Your Word is the reason we live
in the sure knowledge you are everything. **Amen.**



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name: thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn - Long ago, prophets knew -
recorded in pre-Covid days in the Royal Albert Hall
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeLA1LhqFA4>

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Advent God, we journey with you,
to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King,
ears attuned to the song of angels,
eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us if on our journey
we are distracted by the things of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas, and the promise of our Saviour. Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final music - Sing joyfully, *William Byrd - sung by Voces 8. Byrd was a contemporary of Elizabeth Grymeston (see my sermon). He was organist at Lincoln for a decade from 1563 to 1572, then at the Chapel Royal until about 1594. By then he had become a Catholic, and he spent his final years at Stondon Massey in Essex. He died in 1623.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6JfcFhs9Y8>

Peter Barham, 4 December 2020